

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall - Conference Room A**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**May 18, 2015**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. School Committee Members Present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Charles Tsonos. (Joel Monteiro was absent). Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent; William Reynolds, Facilities Manager; Malcolm Moore, Finance Director; Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director; Andrew Thomas, Esq.**

## **Review and Discussion of the Auditor's Report**

**Mr. Moore explained that the Budget Commission wrote off the deficit and we have started at zero each year and have had a surplus since. There has been a lot of turnover in staff; auditors had to correct books, journal entries, etc. and are quite pleased now. We will have a couple of million dollar surplus this year, which is a little misleading, since we are required to fund OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits).**

**The RI Interlocal Trust wants to set up a trust for OPEB, which should be up and running by June; it looks like there is a surplus but we have to transfer money over to the Trust; the books not at \$5 million; cumulative for last three years; \$5 million for the schools.**

**Kim Mercer –this year's surplus now at \$3 million plus. Superintendent provided s handout on Fund Balance Analysis; Superintendent trying to get the teachers' salaries back up and could not do it last year, but pretty comfortable with the budget this year. Discussion about health insurance increase; Superintendent wants to pay either half or full differential of health insurance co-share.**

**Mr. Cahoon asked about capital improvements?**

**Mr. Moore – once we do the doors, etc. that will eat up \$1.5 million.**

**Discussion: Mr. Thomas explained about being self-insured;**

**Mr. Moore explained pros and cons of being self-insured;**

**Kim Mercer – need an administrator to talk to the Trust to get the fees; \$3,327,902 is the 2014 fund balance surplus.**

**Discussion regarding contracts and 5% cuts which were made in salaries.**

**Linda Dykeman had concerns about making sure to fund capital improvements; the plan is to flip back the housing aide; the work has to be substantially completed by June 30th.**

**Mr. Monteiro wanted to be sure we still get \$1 million in aid.**

**Mr. Cahoon – we have not figured the reimbursement at all into this;**

discussion about how much pool project would cost; general discussion about facilities;

Mr. Ferreira had concerns about spending \$9 million for a roof at the high school and if it would be worth it.

Mr. Reynolds – informed the School Committee that School Department vehicles are needed.

Mr. Moore explained about Google money – Police received \$10 million.

Kim Mercer – talked to the City Manager about getting some used vehicles.

Mr. Ferreira asked how many vehicles are needed.

Mr. Reynolds needs six box trucks; mechanic has been working on junk; talked about having a maintenance schedule for the trucks.

Discussion regarding proposed use of funds.

Ms. Beauchaine would like to inquire about the cost of a grant writer.

Mr. Ferreira – soffit work trade-off (\$40,000); could be done two months as summer work.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 7:45PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee**